

Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board

February Meeting Minutes

Department of Economic and Community Development

February 16, 2017

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

505 Hudson Street, Conference Room 466

Hartford, Connecticut

Attendance

- Board Members Present: Don Balducci, Chris DiPentima, John Harrity, John Zoldy Catherine Smith and Beverlee Dacey
- Quorum: Yes
- Stakeholders Present: Tom Maloney, Scott Jackson, Bernice Zampano, Tracey Ariel, Bonnie DelConte, Linda Reed, Frank Serna, David Altrosky, Mike Polo, Peter Finegan and Tony Caceser
- Stakeholders via phone: Bryan Garcia and Nick Zuba
- DECD Staff: Toni Karnes and Carmen Molina-Rios.

Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chair Commissioner Catherine H. Smith at 9:07 am.

Commissioner Smith welcomed the board to the meeting and introductions were made.

Approval of December meeting minutes: Motion to accept minutes of January 10, 2017, by John Zoldy and seconded by Chris DiPentima. Motion passed unanimously.

Energy on the Line: Commissioner Smith advised the group that the CT Green Bank had requested a change to their eligibility criteria. She related that the group wanted to include non-owner occupied businesses in their eligibility criteria. Bryan Garcia noted that as they were going through the screening process for potential projects, they identified the need to include non-owner occupied manufacturing facilities as well. After some discussion, Commissioner Smith asked for a motion to accept the proposed eligibility changes to the Energy on the Line Program. Motion was made by John Harrity and seconded by Chris DiPentima. Beverlee Dacey opposed. Motion passed.

Marketing Update: Beverlee Dacey reviewed the Marketing Flyer. She asked the group for input on the flyer and provided the group with her thoughts on wording and font style. Other Board members added their thoughts and suggestions. After a brief discussion, Ms. Dacey advised that, once the suggested edits were made, a copy would be sent out electronically to all board members as various Chambers and Associations.

RFI Update: Carmen Molina-Rios gave an overview of the status of the RFI process. She noted that no specific proposal said “Bingo” to the rating and ranking committee. She stated that there seemed to be a gap in the area of social media and the group should move on to the RFP process. After some discussion, the group agreed to have Ms. Molina-Rios advise the RFI respondents that the Board was moving on to the RFP process.

Innovation and Technology:

Defense & Manufacturing - Frank Serna, from Draper Laboratory, Inc., gave an overview of Innovation Trends in the Department of Defense (DOD) and he noted that there were 5 key strategy areas and that additive manufacturing plays an integral part. He provided some examples of new ways to build existing products as well as new ways to build new products. Subsequent discussion ensued. Commissioner Smith noted that there seemed to be a gradual shift to automation. Ms. Dacey noted that the Board’s challenge would be to have programs in place that would prep the workforce so they would be prepared for the shift.

Composites: Tom Maloney, from CCAT, stated that the goal of the program was to demonstrate a new approach to dynamic, adaptive, and mistake proof machining of advanced, high value structural composites using technologies that are applicable to current and future platforms and components. He stated that the initiative will assist manufacturers increase production speed, lower costs, increase competitiveness and will provide advanced composite material manufacturing proficiency which is needed in order for CT manufacturers to remain competitive domestically and globally. He stated that the amount requested from the MIF Board would be \$2,900,000 to establish a Center of Excellence for Composites.

Peter Finnegan from Pratt discussed the relationship that they had with CCAT and GKN and that the Center of Excellence for Composites would use equipment and capabilities from CCAT and Goodwin College. Linda Reed discussed how her businesses benefit from composites and noted that she could see other future uses. After a lengthy discussion and review of both the budget and timeline. Commissioner Smith suggested that Board members formulate their questions regarding the program and forward them to staff. These questions will then be answered and submitted to the Board at a special meeting for further discussion and vote. Further discussion ensued and Commissioner Smith asked the Board if they agreed a special meeting on this matter was warranted. The Board agreed and staff was assigned to set a meeting date.

After some discussion Commissioner Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. John Harrity made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Chris DiPentima seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.